

CLAIMS

1. A dental apparatus which comprises a dental device, a graphic display and a user interface connected functionally to one another, the user interface being arranged to be used for controlling functions of the dental device, **characterized** in that

the user interface is a touch pad, and

the graphic display comprises means for showing symbols describing the control functions of the dental device and a cursor, and

the apparatus further comprises means for moving and controlling the cursor in response to a touch of a pointer means and its movement on the surface of the touch pad.

2. A dental apparatus according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the functional connection between the touch pad and the graphic display is arranged through a computer.

3. A dental apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized** in that

the touch pad is arranged to control the computer functionally connected to the dental device.

4. A dental apparatus according to claim 2 or 3, **characterized** in that

the touch pad is arranged to control the dental device through the computer.

5. A dental apparatus according to claim 1 to 4, **characterized** in that

the pointer means is a pointer pen or a finger.

6. A dental apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that

the touch pad comprises a capacitive or a resistive contact surface.

7. A dental apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that

the touch pad is arranged to form control information for the dental device in response to the fact that the contact surface of the touch pad is pressed or something slides on it so that the material layers included in the touch pad touch one another at the point in question, in which case the current flow is interrupted in the electrode network included in the touch pad.

8. A dental apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that

a detachable and disinfectable or disposable film is arranged to be attached to the contact surface.

9. A dental apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that

the touch pad is integrated into the dental apparatus.

10. A dental apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that

the touch pad is arranged to be placed under the backrest of the patient chair included in the dental apparatus.

11. A dental apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that

the touch pad is arranged to form control information for the dental device through the computer so that the control information is modified on the basis of the patient information included in the computer.

12. A method of controlling a dental apparatus, which comprises a dental device, a graphic display and a user interface connected functionally to one another, the user interface being used to control functions of the dental device, **characterized** in that

the user interface is a touch pad which is functionally connected to the graphic display, which is used to show symbols describing the control functions of the dental device and a cursor, which can be moved and controlled through the touch pad, whereby the dental apparatus is controlled by moving the cursor on the display to the desired control function symbol and by selecting the function in question.